No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/05/02 : LOC-HAK-242-5-21-4

Annual Review 11/29/71

DOS REVIEWED 12-Jan-2011: UNCLASSIFIED NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE

Vietnam

REFER TO DOS

Needs theme: whom are we addressing? ~~What~~ It has no line, no viewpoint -

Declining vote isn't end in itself. Nothing thoughtful about Vietnamization or negotiation.

→ Take on critics of Laos operation.

→ Charts on declining troop strength + casualties. Probably high % of our casualties were in 1st 6 mos. of Admin. — Can show impact of Cambodia + Laos. Declining air war.

→ Take on argument re expanding the ~~air~~ war. (NVNese have already.)

Vietnamization — Thoughtful. Magnitudes aren't the issue. Hit critics hard with our case.

[Have to put stern message in there, bec. Chou En-lai will read it...]

Negotiations — Leave implication that Admin that has put so much stock in ~~about~~ negotiations won't be found wanting. Dilemma of need for ambiguity... (Domestic need for certainty vs. need for negotiating effectiveness.)

Only one issue (deadline is irrelevant): List all the things we conceded in exchange for talks) = pol. future of SVN. Do we collude with our enemy to defeat our ally,

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VN — If anyone had predicted 3 yrs ago . . . —

Teddy Speach Oct 68 — we've done it all.

Domestic debate keeps shifting — Once we make a concession, debate simply shifts. [Show this, in uncontentious way.]

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